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Fourteenth and subsequent decennial censuses, hearing. Parts 8-11.
(Washington: Supt. Docs. 1918. Pp. 177-253.)

Report on Fresno's immigration problem with particular reference to educational facilities and requirements. (Sacramento: State Commission of Immigration and Housing. 1918. Pp. 28.)

Social Problems and Reforms

The Unmarried Mother. By PERCY GAMBLE KAMMERER. Criminal Science Monograph. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1918. Pp. xiv, 342. \$3.00.)

This study is based upon 500 cases culled from the records of charity organizations in and about Boston, and aims principally at an inductive determination of the causes of illegitimacy. Only 69 of the 500 cases are described in detail and these are used to illustrate the various groups of causative factors which the author gradually discerned from analysis of his material. The reader interested in human documents, nearly all it is unnecessary to state of a very drab hue, will turn to chapters 3 to 16 which give the case histories. The relative importance of causes, as classified by Mr. Kammerer, is given in Appendix A.

Although only 132 out of the 500 mothers whose cases were studied had had mental examinations, Mr. Kammerer is of the opinion that approximately a third of the 500 were mentally abnormal. In the remaining two thirds bad home conditions appear as a "major factor" in 194 cases and a "minor factor" in 158. Bad companions appear as a factor in 144 cases, bad environment in 85 (p. 320). It is significant that 31.6 per cent of the 500 women were domestic servants, and 26.2 per cent factory workers, while the next highest percentage, 9.2, falls to girls "at home" (p. 329). The author reviews European experience; nowhere is domestic service other than dangerous, especially to the girl from the country (p. 270). "Defects of heredity" appear as a factor, and then a minor one, in only 48 cases. The author disclaims the adequacy of the data to throw much light on this question, but he rightly notes "a tendency on the part of some social workers to solve the complexities of human motivation by the easy method of throwing the responsibility upon the ancestors" (p. 182).

Chapter 18, on the unmarried mother in various countries, might well have been expanded, especially where it deals with European laws with regard to illegitimacy. It is a far cry from the law of England, where only an act of parliament can legit-

mize a child born out of wedlock, to that of Norway where the illegitimate child has practically all the rights of the legitimate. Commenting upon this modern legislation, the author says:

Most of the legislation . . . is seeking to help the mother, if by so doing it helps the child. There is thus an absence of the retributive element in the State's attitude and a frank acknowledgment that the situation exists, and that nothing should interfere with the State's interest in the child who is to be a future citizen. . . . That the State should take a part in the handicapping the child because of its mother's misdeeds, is an argument which few would uphold.

We may be quite sure that this view will gain ground rapidly in all countries, especially as we must probably look forward to an increase in the illegitimacy rate, which up to 1914 had been declining. The author accepts Prinzing's conclusion that the amount of illegitimacy is directly correlated with the excess of the number of unmarried women aged 15 to 50 over the number of men aged 20 to 60 in a community.

Coming to measures to keep down the illegitimacy rate, the author proposes (1) the control or segregation of mentally abnormal women during child-bearing age; (2) the enactment of laws reflecting European experience in regard to the unmarried mother, together with propaganda "indicating to how large an extent society forces both the mother and the child into criminality"; (3) improvement in general social conditions, including housing, home environment, and recreational facilities; (4) improvement of the surroundings of the girl during working hours; (5) revision of the public attitude toward questions of sex in general.

Mr. Kammerer is to be congratulated for carrying through a difficult investigation and making a valuable contribution to the literature of what is certain to be one of the many intricate and vital problems of the era of social and economic reconstruction now rapidly bearing down upon us. The volume is prefaced by a cordial introduction by Dr. William Healy. A bibliography is appended.

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NEW BOOKS

BACON, C. *Standard catalog. Sociology section.* (New York: H. W. Wilson. 1918. Pp. 99.)

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